



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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Press Release

USCIS REMINDS APPLICANTS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO OBTAIN ADVANCE PAROLE BEFORE HOLIDAY AND SUMMER TRAVEL ABROAD

WASHINGTON, DC - U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) reminds individuals with an application for adjustment of status to that of lawful permanent resident, an application for relief under the NACARA 203, or a pending asylum application, that they must obtain Advance Parole by filing Form I-131 Application for Travel Document (available online at www.uscis.gov) with the USCIS before traveling abroad (see USCIS Travel Advisory Questions and Answers). Advance Parole is permission to re-enter the United States after traveling abroad in order to continue processing for adjustment of status. Such individuals must be approved for Advance Parole before leaving the United States. Travel outside of the United States without advance parole may have severe consequences for certain individuals who are in the process of adjusting their status. Such individuals may be unable to return to the United States, their applications may be denied, or both.

“With this travel reminder, we wish to encourage our USCIS customers to be aware of the immigration travel requirements before making holiday or summer travel plans to their home country,” said Eduardo Aguirre, Director of USCIS.

Applicants can apply for Advance Parole by following the instructions for filing Form I-131, which can be found online at www.uscis.gov or obtained from a local USCIS district office or a USCIS Service Center. Because processing time for Form I-131 varies from 60 to 150 days, applicants planning to travel abroad should plan ahead due to the busy summer travel season.

Note:

Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, aliens who depart the United States after being unlawfully present in the United States for extended periods of time can be barred from admission to lawful permanent resident status, even if they have obtained Advance Parole prior to departure. Those aliens who have been unlawfully present in the United States for more than 180 days but less than one year are inadmissible for three years; those aliens who have been unlawfully present for a year or more are inadmissible for 10 years. Aliens who are unlawfully present, depart the U.S., and subsequently reenter under a grant of parole, may nevertheless be ineligible to adjust their status.

USCIS urges all aliens with pending applications for adjustment of status to consult an immigration attorney, immigration assistance organization accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals, the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283, or the USCIS web site: www.uscis.gov before making any foreign travel plans.

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